

Wilson Log Cabin
Hilltop Drive
Westernport, Md.
AL-VI_D-212

This log cabin near Westernport was probably built early in the nineteenth century when Westernport was being settled. It is located high on a mountain above the town.

Attention was drawn to the area because of George Washington's plan to deepen and connect the Potomac and Ohio Rivers. Consequently Westernport, or as it was originally called "Hardscrabble", was settled.

The building is one and one-half stories tall and three bays wide. Its square logs are joined with "dovetail" notching which is somewhat rare for Allegany County where most log buildings were built with "V" notching. Although the building is in marginally deteriorated condition and its early ownership is obscured the cabin is a physical reminder of the early settlers of Western Allegany County.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Wilson Log Cabin

2. Location

street & number Hilltop Drive ☐ not for publication

city, town Westernport ☐ vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland county Allegany

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John Warren Wilson

street & number Rt. 1 Box 111 telephone no.: 359-0320

city, town Westernport state and zip code Maryland 21562

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allegany County Courthouse liber # 471

street & number 30 Washington Street folio # 168

city, town Cumberland state Maryland 21502

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. AL-VI-D-2-2

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The John Warren Wilson Log House is located on the north side of Hilltop Drive approximately one-half mile northwest of Westernport. The house is sited on the southeast face of a steep ridge that rises to the west of the town and forms the western side of the George's Creek Valley.

The house measures $15\frac{1}{2}$ by $23\frac{1}{2}$ feet and is of half-dovetailed log construction. It is a true $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories high, three bays wide and one room deep, with a pitched gable roof oriented on a northeast-southwest axis.

The principal facade faces southeast toward Westernport and the confluence of the Potomac River and George's Creek. The front door is located in the center bay of this facade, flanked by a single 6/6 window on each side. The door opening is unusually low due to the low, 6 foot 1 inch headroom on the first floor of the house. The log walls are constructed of logs averaging 7 inches thick and 9 to 12 inches high. They are joined at the corners with half-dovetail notching and the spaces between the logs are packed with mud and scraps of riven wood. The butt ends of the ceiling joists are visible from the exterior, and the log walls are carried up several more courses above the second floor level to form a true story-and-a-half. The foundation is rubble stone and is in a state of collapse. A one story hip roof porch is carried across the front facade and wraps around the southwest gable end.

The only opening in the southwest gable wall is a single large 6/6 window centered in the upper gable. The log wall, stone foundation and one story porch all match the front facade.

The rear facade of the building is completely enclosed by a one story frame lean-to that is partially collapsed. The only visible opening in the rear facade of the log building is a single door in the center bay.

On the northeast gable wall, there is a 6/6 window centered on the first floor and a similar opening lacking sash in the center of the upper gable. A modern concrete block exterior chimney rises against this wall to the left of the windows. There is no evidence of an earlier chimney on this gable or in any other part of the house. The logs remain exposed to the weather on this wall, and the frame upper gable is sheathed with German siding.

The first floor is divided into a hall/parlor plan, with the larger hall to the northeast and a smaller parlor to the southwest. The hall measures 13 feet 4 inches by 14 feet; the parlor measures 8 feet 8 inches by 14 feet. The two rooms are separated by a vertical board partition with a connecting door in the center. An enclosed winder stair in the north corner of the hall leads up to the second floor. A door in the center of the rear facade opens into the rear lean-to. The interior walls and the widely spaced joist ceiling have been sheathed with wallboard. The baseboard and architrave trim are plain. A late 19th century four-door cupboard is built in against the north end of the interior partition in the hall. The front and rear door openings are fitted with Victorian paneled doors.

8. Significance

Survey No. AL-VI-D-212

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This small log house is significant as an example of a traditional building form widely utilized in Western Maryland throughout much of the 19th century. The large logs, dovetailed corner notching and hall/parlor plan are all features commonly found throughout this region in the late 18th century and the first half of the 19th century. While this house has previously been identified as early 19th century, the roof framing, machine nails, and lack of other early fabric suggest a later date of construction of circa 1840–70. It remains an important architectural landmark in the westernport area, however, and was for many years the home of the Wilson family.

HISTORY (prepared by David Dorsey)

Westernport traces its beginning to George Washington's plan to deepen and connect the Potomac and Ohio Rivers.¹ The plan drew attention to the area, attracting settlers and creating activity near the juncture of the Ohio's tributaries and the Potomac.² The town, known to its residents as "Hard-Scrabble", was renamed Western Port by 1802 when its post office was established.³

Footnotes

1. Harry I. Stegmaier, et al. Allegany County: A History. (Parsons, W. Va.: McClain Printing Co.) p. 84.
2. Ibid, p. 85
3. Ibid, p. 140–41.

Survey No. AL-1-2-212

10. Geographical Data

Quadrangle scale _____

H

11. Form Prepared By

PS-2746

7.1 Description (Con't)

The second floor is also divided into two rooms by a vertical beaded board partition typical of the late 19th century. The larger chamber to the northeast measures 12 feet by 13 feet 8 inches; the smaller chamber measures 9 feet 8 inches by 13 feet 8 inches. The log exterior walls extend up 4½ to 5 feet above the floor level; the gable walls consist of horizontal sheathing boards nailed directly to the gable rafter pairs. The interior walls are white-washed and have been covered with cardboard for added insulation. The rooms are open to the roof, which is constructed of unbarked poles mitred and nailed at the ridge. There are collar beams joining the rafter pairs in the larger room but not in the smaller room.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Wilson Log Cabin

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Hilltop Drive

Sixth

CITY, TOWN

Westernport

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☒ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☒ OTHER: Vacant**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

John Warren Wilson

Telephone #: 359-0320

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 1 Box 111

CITY, TOWN

Westernport

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21562

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 471
Folio #: 168

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE
Maryland 21502**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AL-110-212

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This cabin consists of a one and one-half story three bays wide rectangular structure of hand hewn logs joined with dovetailed notching. It rests on a high stone foundation of random rubble with a plain water table. The gable flank roof is covered with tar paper. Eaves are close penton the ends and consists of rafter ends on the flanks. A replaced cement block chimney is located outside end.

The main entrance, a five panel replaced door, is located in the center of the southeastern facade. Windows include pegged six over six light windows and two light casement windows. A shed roofed board and batten addition is on the northwest. A hip roofed wraparound veranda is supported by square and round wooden posts.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This log cabin near Westernport was probably built early in the nineteenth century when Westernport was being settled. It is located high on a mountain above the town. Westernport traces its beginnings to George Washington's plan to deepen and connect the Potomac and Ohio Rivers. (1) The plan drew attention to the area, attracting settlers and creating activity near the juncture of the Ohio's tributaries and the Potomac. (2) The town, known to its residents as "Hardscrabble", was renamed Western Port by 1802 when its post office was established. (3) The cabin was for many years the home of the Wilson family. (4)

The building is one and one-half stories tall and three bays wide. Its square logs are joined with "dovetail" notching which is somewhat rare for Allegany County where most log buildings were built with "V" notching. Although the building is in marginally deteriorated condition and its early ownership is obscured the cabin is a physical reminder of the early settlers of Western Allegany County.

- (1) Harry I. Stegmaier, Jr. et al. Allegany County, A History (Parsons, W. Va.: McClan Printing Co.)p. 84
- (2) Ibid, p.85
- (3) Ibid, pp.140-141
- (4) Interview John Warren Wilson, Hill Top, Westernport 1-8-80

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stegmaier, Harry Jr. et al. Allegany County, A History, Parsons, W Va.
McClain Printing Co. 1976

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David A. Dorsey, Historic Sites Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3 Pershing Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Cumberland

Maryland 21502

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

TITLE SEARCH

Wilson Log Cabin
AL-VI-D-212

Allegany County Deed: Liber 471, Folio 168
Grantee: Lewis R. Wilson
Grantor: Elsie G. Wilson

Date: May 10, 1974

Allegany County Deed: Liber 197, Folio 628
Grantee: Osborn E. Wilson and Elsie G. Wilson
Grantor: Nellie Dowling, et al
Notes: Known as the Dixon Farm

Date: October 25, 1943

Allegany County Deed: Liber 169, Folio 614
Grantee: Nellie Dowling
Grantor: Edwin J. Roberts and Elizabeth Roberts

Date: August 1, 1933

Allegany County Deed: Liber 169, Folio 612
Grantee: Edwin J. Roberts
Grantor: Reuel C. Roberts and Marie Roberts

Date: July 10, 1933

Allegany County Deed: Liber 165, Folio 316
Grantee: Reuel C. Roberts and Marie Roberts
Grantor: Edwin J. Roberts and Elizabeth Roberts

Date: February 5, 1931

Allegany County Deed: Liber 155, Folio 584
Grantee: Edwin J. Roberts
Grantor: Allegany Coal Company

Date: July 1, 1927

Allegany County Deed: Liber 135, Folio 598
Grantee: Allegany Coal Company
Grantor: Howard C. Dixon

Date: January 29, 1921
Consideration: \$2,000.00

Allegany County Deed: Liber 125, Folio 81
Grantee: Howard C. Dixon
Grantor: Horace P. Whitworth, attorney
Notes: Attorney named in mortgage as per Equity #8147
Part of this Equity folder is an "Order-nisi"
which describes the property as "one large farm
adjoining the town of Westernport. Improved by
two dwellings and a barn..." The Crowley family
defaulted on a mortgage which resulted in this public sale.

Date: January 24, 1918
Consideration: \$1,950.00

Allegany County Deed: Liber 112, Folio 727
Grantee: Michael J. Crowley
Grantor: Howard Dixon, et al

Date: April 2, 1913
Consideration: \$2,500.00

Wilson Log Cabin
AL-V1-D-212

Allegany County Deed: Liber 61, Folio 84
Grantee: Nancy P. Dixon
Grantor: George W. Spangler and Catherine Spangler
Notes: Grantee died intestate

Date: April 1, 1884
Consideration: \$765.00

INVENTORY NO: _____

DATE: AL-VI-D-212MODELING: Drastic, moderate, minorNAME OF PROPERTY: Westernport Log HouseLOCATION OF PROPERTY: Westernport near water ReservoirDIRECTION DWELLING FACES: 150° SENAME OF OWNER: Will Hgo Dr ED 3ADDRESS: Morgan Coal Co See Mrs. Dorothy Biggs478/407 177 A. P. 10 MAP 75 359 0622 PO Box E WesternportSTORIES: 1(1) 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3(✓) 4() 5() 6() 7() ()CHANGES, ADDITIONS: SHED NW Board & Batten

SELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular)

ALL CONSTRUCTION:

- () FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
() BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
() STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
(✓) LOG dovetail notching
() OTHER: Coverings

ALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others _____

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone random rubbleWATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded BrickWINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2() 6/6(✓) 9/6() 9/9() other()
pegged(✓) nailed() wide() narrow() mitred() pediment()ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: center 5 Panel
HARDWARE: original(✓) replaced(✓)
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN
Paneled, Vertical, Horizontal BoardsORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed) close pent
original(✓) replaced() rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architraveROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers # _____
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; original() replaced()

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip() gable()

PIERS: Number: 1 Brick() Stone() Corbeled() original() replaced(✓)
Location: Flush end() Inside end() Outside end(✓) Central() Interior()

DOOR & WINDOWS: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

REMARKS:

USE:

SIGNIFICANCE:

DATE COLLECTED:

Supposed to be oldest hldg. around
Westernport.

MARYLAND
S. AND WATER RESOURCES
D. JR., DIRECTOR

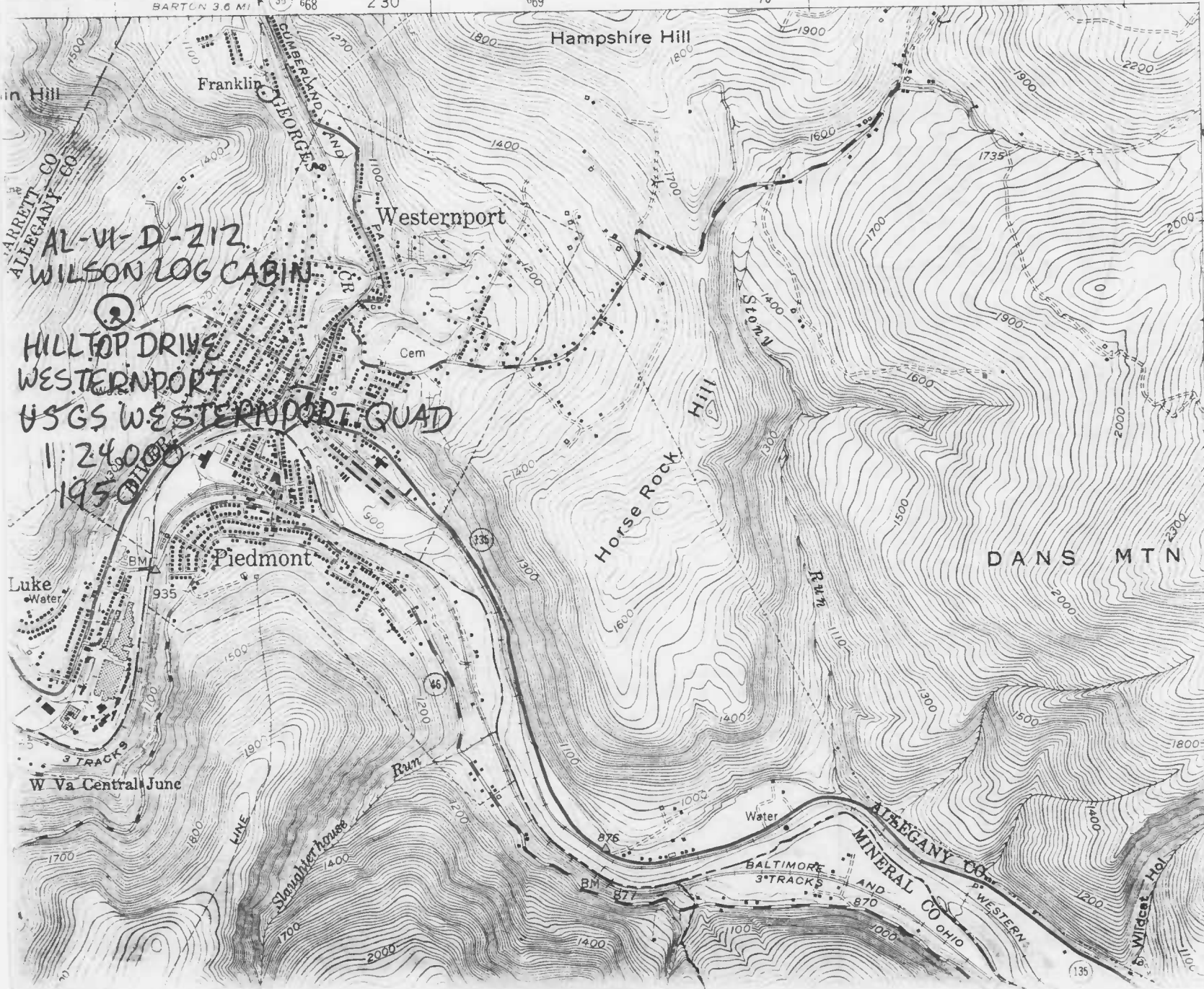
WESTERNPORT QUADRANGLE
WEST VIRGINIA-MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE/4 ELK GARDEN 15' QUADRANGLE

5263 III SW
LONACONIN

FROSTBURG (JUNC U.S. 40) 15 MI
BARTON 3.6 MI

2 140 000 FEET (W. VA.)

79°00'
39°30'



AL-VI-D-212
WILSON LOG CABIN
HILLTOP DRIVE
WESTERNPORT
USGS WESTERNPORT QUAD
1:24,000
1950

360 000 FEET
(W. VA.)

4372

4371

01-11



AL-VI-D-212
WILSON LOG CABIN
HILLTOP DRIVE WESTERNPORT
DAVID A. DORSEY
11 / 1 / 78

--west



AL-VI-D-Z12

WILSON LOG CABIN

HILLTOP DRIVE, WESTERNPORT

DAVID A. DORSEY

11 / 1 / 78

EAST